



STATE OF MICHIGAN

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT & BUDGET  
LANSING

LISA WEBB SHARPE  
DIRECTOR

For Immediate Release:

May 9, 2006

Contact:

Edward Woods III  
Director of Communications  
(517) 241-8619

### ***Buy Michigan First* events draw enthusiastic reviews; more events scheduled statewide**

LANSING – Buy Michigan First, an initiative designed to increase the number of Michigan-based vendors who are doing business with the state by connecting small business owners with state contracting opportunities, opened its 14-city tour to outstanding reviews. The first events were held in Benton Harbor, Flint and Ann Arbor.

Lisa Webb Sharpe, director of the Department of Management and Budget, and Sean Carlson, director of DMB's Business Services Administration, provided audiences with an overview of the program, which guides business owners through the vendor registration and state-contracting process. They also highlighted the businesses in those communities that currently hold contracts with state government.

"Buy Michigan First provided an outstanding and clear overview on how to do business with Michigan," said Russell Tynes, owner of Tynes Construction, who attended the event at Lake Michigan College in Benton Harbor. "The State of Michigan is open for business, and I look forward to getting into the game."

Buy Michigan First carries forward Gov. Jennifer Granholm's directive for state government to give contracting preference to Michigan businesses whenever possible. It aims to build awareness of the opportunities to supply state government with commodities, services, information technology, highway construction, building design and construction and to boost the number of bid submissions from minority- and woman-owned businesses and those operated by disabled owners and service-disabled veterans.

Melita Bowman-Murphy of BowMur Business Solutions found the session at Mott Community College, Flint, very informative. "It helped me understand the process better," she said.

Patrick Bruetsch of the Bicycle Peddler described the Washtenaw Community College presentation in Ann Arbor as "excellent, first rate!"

Business owners may still attend a Buy Michigan First event. The two-hour programs are scheduled for the following locations:

Wednesday, May 10, 9 a.m. – Bay de Noc Community College, Escanaba

- more -

Wednesday, May 10, 2 p.m. – Alpena Community College, Alpena  
Tuesday, May 16, 8 a.m. – Grand Rapids Community College, Grand Rapids  
Tuesday, May 16, 12 p.m. – Kalamazoo Valley Community College, Kalamazoo  
Thursday, May 18, 12 p.m. – Delta College, University Center  
Thursday, May 25, 8 a.m. – Oakland Community College, Farmington Hills  
Thursday, May 25, 12 p.m. – Macomb Community College, Warren  
Thursday, June 8, 8 a.m. – Henry Ford Community College, Dearborn  
Thursday, June 8, 5 p.m. – Wayne County Community College, Detroit  
Friday, June 9, 8 a.m. – Lansing Community College West Campus, Lansing

Business owners may register for the free events at [www.michigan.gov/buymichiganfirst](http://www.michigan.gov/buymichiganfirst), where they will find links to vendor registration information and a list of current contracts.

Buy Michigan First is a collaborative effort of state government and Michigan economic groups. Partners include the Governor's Office, Department of Management and Budget, Department of Agriculture, Department of Transportation, Department of Information Technology, Department of Civil Rights, Michigan Economic Development Corporation, Michigan Small Business and Technology Development Center, and Procurement Technical Assistance Centers throughout Michigan.

# # #